



BLM NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management • Arizona Strip District Office • 345 East Riverside Drive • St. George, UT 84790

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Fire Fighters Managing Lightning Ignited Wildfire and conducting burnout operation

St. George— On Thursday, August 19, 2010 the BLM Arizona Strip District Fire Management team will be conducting a burnout to minimize the fuel load from an old chaining that was conducted in the 1960's which accumulated heavy fuels within and adjacent to the Mustang fire now burning near Mustang Knoll. As these fuels accumulations can pose potential fire control problems under unfavorable conditions, fire managers will take advantage of current, favorable weather conditions with higher humidity to safely reduce these accumulated fuels and reduce the overall fuel load in the area in which the fire is burning.

As of today, three engines, one fuels crew and one helitack from Color Country Interagency Fire Management continue to manage the 535-acre Mustang fire which was ignited by lightning on Sunday August 8, 2010. The fire is currently burning in pinion juniper and sage vegetation on BLM administered lands within the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument. The fire is currently being managed by fire officials for multiple objectives other than full suppression to meet future desired conditions established in the Monument Resource Management Plan. Smoke may be visible near Black Rock Mountain and from St. George, Utah.

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The BLM manages more land – 245 million acres -- than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.